UNITED NATIONS

DP

Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme

Distr.
LIMITED

DP/1993/SCPM/L.3
4 June 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fortieth session
1-18 June 1993, New York

DRAFT REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME MATTERS ON ITS IN-SESSIONAL MEETING HELD DURING THE FORTIETH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL, 1-18 JUNE 1993

Rapporteur: Mr. Thomas STELZER (Austria)

CONTENTS

		Page
I.	OPENING OF THE MEETING, ELECTION OF THE RAPPORTEUR, ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK	3
II.	ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME MATTERS ON ITS IN-SESSIONAL MEETING HELD DURING THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL, 16-19 FEBRUARY 1993	3
III.	COUNTRY, INTERCOUNTRY AND GLOBAL PROGRAMMES	3
	A. Africa	3
	B. Arab States*	
	C. Asia and the Pacific*	
	D. European States*	
	E. Latin America and the Caribbean*	
	F. Other issues*	
IV.	UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND*	

* To be issued as addenda to the present document.

CONTENTS (continued)

V. FIELD VISITS*

VI. EVALUATION*

VII. PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT ISSUES, INCLUDING DECENTRALIZATION AND THE PROGRAMME APPROACH*

VIII. MATTERS REFERRED TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE BY THE GOVERNING COUNCIL*

IX. FUTURE PROGRAMME OF WORK, INCLUDING FIELD VISITS TO TAKE PLACE IN THE SECOND HALF OF 1993*

X. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME MATTERS TO THE GOVERNING COUNCIL*

XI. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME MATTERS*

I. OPENING OF THE MEETING, ELECTION OF THE RAPPORTEUR, ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

1. The Standing Committee for Programme Matters held an in-sessional meeting during the fortieth session of the Governing Council convened in New York from 1 to 18 June 1993. The session was opened by H.E. Dr. Oscar Serrate-Cuellar (Bolivia), Vice-President of the Governing Council. It was decided that Mr. Thomas Stelzer (Austria) should continue to serve as Rapporteur.

2. At its first meeting on 1 June 1993, the Standing Committee adopted its agenda and organization of work as contained in document DP/1993/SCPM/L.2. The Standing Committee also agreed to maintain a flexible schedule of work.

II. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME MATTERS ON ITS IN-SESSIONAL MEETING HELD DURING THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL, 16-19 FEBRUARY 1993

3. At its first meeting, the Standing Committee adopted the second part of its report on its in-sessional meeting held during the special session of the Governing Council, 16-19 February 1993 (DP/1993/SCPM/L.1/Add.6).

III. COUNTRY, INTERCOUNTRY AND GLOBAL PROGRAMMES

A. Africa

1. Country programme approvals

Benin

4. The Assistant Administrator and Director of the Regional Bureau for Africa (RBA) introduced the fifth country programme for Benin (DP/CP/BEN/5) for the period 1993-1997. The net indicative planning figure (IPF) of $33.9 million would be concentrated on two main areas in the proposed programme: national economic management and improvement of living conditions of the population.

5. The Representative of Benin thanked UNDP for playing a pivotal role in assisting development in Benin and noted that the accelerating democratization process was closely linked to socio-economic development. The formulation of the country programme had been based on the UNDP round-table process and on sectoral consultations. The Government hoped to internalize this process but progress had been slow. He emphasized that international technical, moral and financial support was needed, especially to achieve social goals.

6. While supporting the country programme delegations, commented that the areas of concentration were broad despite the effort to achieve greater focus, performance indicators were overly ambitious and the approach was too statist. It was therefore suggested that indicators be more realistic and short-term and that further efforts be made to focus the programme. The importance of UNDP support for capacity-building for national execution was emphasized despite the difficulties entailed. More support was required from UNDP for development led

by the private sector. Moreover, UNDP was perceived as slow in providing assistance in the education sector. In considering the country programme document, one delegation noted that the assessment of the previous country programme gave no indication on impact, but discussed only implementation and execution.

7. The Assistant Administrator and Director replied to points raised by delegations. She noted that a certain lack of focus was inevitable during a transitional phase but that efforts would be made to deepen the level of support wherever possible. Regarding indicators of success, UNDP deliberately focused on longer-term effects, contrary to the structural adjustment programme, which concentrated on short-term indicators. Neither strengthening the Government's capacity in economic management nor alleviating poverty were short-term endeavours. As a clarification, she explained that "itinerant experts" were high-level consultants who were available on request and that nationals carried out project or programme implementation. She noted that UNDP promoted private-sector development through such instruments as the African Project Development Facility (APDF) and African Training Management Services (ATMS). In the case of Benin, the transition from a centrally directed economy to a liberal market economy required a conducive legal, financial and economic environment to stimulate national entrepreneurship and revitalize the private sector. The Government had requested UNDP assistance to strengthen its capacity for economic management and administrative reform, leaving production and distribution to other agents.

8. The Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the fifth country programme for Benin.

Côte d'Ivoire

9. The fifth country programme for Côte d'Ivoire (DP/CP/IVC/5), with a net IPF of $12.4 million, was presented by the Assistant Administrator and Director, RBA who drew attention to the crippling effects on the country of changes in the global economy in the past decade. Efforts had been made to respond to changing circumstances and to reduce projects under the fifth cycle as well as to synchronize the country programme with the national plan. The country programme focused on two areas of concentration: management of sustainable development and decentralized development and grass-roots participation.

10. The representative of Côte d'Ivoire expressed his Government's gratitude for UNDP's support to the country's development efforts. He noted that UNDP had contributed to aid coordination and to the goodwill so essential to development.

11. While commending the country programme, delegations expressed hope that efforts would be made during the fifth cycle to overcome the weaknesses experienced during the fourth cycle. Furthermore, care should be taken not to be overly ambitious in the fifth programme, given the small size of the IPF and keeping in mind the six areas of focus specified in Governing Council decision 90/34. UNDP could provide data, information and wide experience even with limited resources. UNDP was praised for taking a leadership role in coordination - in close cooperation with other donors. A question was asked on the source of funds for the forestry project under Capacity 21.

12. In her response, the Assistant Administrator and Director, RBA, stated that despite the relatively small IPF, UNDP had been highly effective in a catalytic and coordinating role in Côte d'Ivoire and had used its multisectoral approach to leverage other donor assistance. She noted that a National Long-Term Perspective Study (NLTPS) had been launched in the country and that Special Programme Resources (SPR) were being used for the forestry activity under Capacity 21.

13. The Committee recommended that the Governing Council approved the fifth country programme for Côte d'Ivoire.

Equatorial Guinea

14. The fourth country programme for Equatorial Guinea, 1993-1995 (DP/CP/EQG/4), with a net IPF of $7 million, was introduced by the Minister of State for Planning and International Cooperation of Equatorial Guinea. He highlighted the intense consultation process during 1991 and 1992 with UNDP and the donor community, which lead to the formulation of the proposed programme. He noted that UNDP had a key role to play in the coordination of assistance to the democratization process. UNDP had already made valuable contributions in that regard during the preparation of the country programme and, in particular, during the UNDP/United Nations mission of April 1993, which had made recommendations on implementation measures for the electoral process and the protection of human rights. The recommendations of the missions and the proposed UNDP country programme were in line with the National Pact, signed by the Government and the political parties in March 1993. He noted that the Government had requested UNDP to coordinate a donor conference for electoral assistance and to act as a channel of communication with the donor community. Approval of the fourth country programme would be a constructive gesture at a decisive moment of political transition.

15. The Resident Representative noted that the proposed programme focused on three main areas: strengthening existing social services and development of human resources; planning, management and public administration; and sustainable use of natural resources. He also drew attention to the results of the joint UNDP/United Nations mission in April 1993, summarized in the note by the Administrator (DP/CP/EQG/Note/4), including agreed confidence-building measures.

16. One delegation in supporting approval of the country programme, emphasized the positive steps made by the signing of the National Pact and argued that UNDP assistance should continue and support free and fair elections during the difficult transition towards democracy. Another delegation suggested reprogramming the assistance to the social sector and providing increased support to good governance and sustainable development. Greater focus on privatization and on the enabling environment for private initiative was proposed. It was suggested that the country programme be reviewed at the forty-first session of the Governing Council in light of the changing situation in the country.

17. The delegation of Equatorial Guinea mentioned recent steps to promote private-sector development, such as the formulation of a new investment code and the creation of a private-sector promotion office.

18. The Resident Representative noted efforts made to avoid duplications in the social sector and the possibility of using the new country programme to reprogramme assistance with an emphasis on good governance and on employment planning in support of private-sector development.

19. The Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the third country programme for Equatorial Guinea and that a review of the programme be presented to the Council at its forty-first session.

Gabon

20. The fifth country programme for Gabon (DP/CP/GAB/5), with a net IPF of $1.6 million and estimated cost-sharing of $3.2 million, was introduced by the Resident Representative. He emphasized the need to seek conditions for more balanced and sustainable human development in the face of a deteriorating economic situation. UNDP aimed to build on its comparative advantage in providing strategic neutral support for the short, medium and long term. The country programme focused on three areas of concentration: human development; improved development management; and environment. In pursuing strategic objectives in these areas, UNDP would adopt a multisectoral approach and would ensure complementarity with the programmes of other United Nations specialized agencies and funds and bilateral donors. Government cost-sharing constituted an important commitment to the implementation of the programme.

21. Delegations welcomed the strategy underlying the programme and the inclusion of prospective studies to address the negative impact of structural adjustment. They found the contribution of the Government to cost-sharing to be relatively small. Clarification was requested on Part III of the financial summary contained in annex I of document DP/CP/GAB/5. Further details were sought on the initiatives foreseen in the area of vocational training and employment and in the area of environmental protection, particularly as related to World Bank activities in this field.

22. The Resident Representative replied that the financial summary would be corrected. He noted that the Government would consider, in the course of programme implementation, an increase in cost-sharing and stated that the activities for environmental protection were being carried out in close association with the World Bank and other donors. The proposals on employment had been designed in the context of rising unemployment in order to develop the capacity to observe the labour market and formulate a human resources development strategy for the country.

23. The Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the fifth country programme for Gabon.

Sierra Leone

24. The fifth country programme for Sierra Leone (DP/CP/SIL/5), with a net IPF of $43.4 million, was presented jointly by the Resident Representative and the Under-Secretary of State, Department of Finance, Development and National Economic Planning, Government of Sierra Leone. They emphasized the pragmatic steps being taken towards good governance and a return to democratic civilian

rule within three years, as well as the efforts of UNDP in close collaboration with other donors to assist the country to alleviate poverty. The country programme focused on three areas of concentration: development planning, management and governance; human resources development; and integrated rural development, agriculture and natural resources management.

25. Supporting the country programme, one delegation commended the frank assessment of the situation in the country presented by the delegate from Sierra Leone and thanked the Resident Representative for his useful comments on UNDP cooperation and consultations with other major donors in Sierra Leone. In view of the uncertain situation in the country, it was suggested that the Director, RBA present a verbal report to the Governing Council at its forty-first session (1994) on the progress attained in the implementation of the programme.

26. The Committee recommended that the Governing Council approve the fifth country programme for Sierra Leone with the proviso that the Director of the Regional Bureau for Africa present a verbal report on the implementation of the programme to the Council at its forty-first session.